

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06827 132004Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6827

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: CSCE

REF: USNATO 3152

1. IN GENERAL REVIEW OF CURRENT STATE OF PLAY OF PREPARATIONS FOR CSCE PHASE II, KEY FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL REMARKED POSITIVELY ON WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS LOW PROFILE ADOPTED BY USDEL AT HELSINKI. HE SAID THAT U.S. LOST NOTHING BY THIS STANCE DURING THE MPT, SINCE AN AGGRESSIVE U.S. POSTURE VIS-A-VIS ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES WOULD HAVE FUELED EUROPEAN SUSPICIONS RE U.S.-USSR COLLUSION. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTIONS AS TO MERIT OF A MORE ACTIVE VOLE BY U.S. IN PREPARING FOR PHASE II AND RESPECTIVE ROLES TO BE PLAYED BY NATO AND EC 9, OFFICIAL SAID A MORE SIGNIFICANT U.S. ROLE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND DESIRABLE, PARTICULARLY AS CONCERNS THE FIRST AGENDA ITEM WHICH HE TERMED THE MOST DELICATE, NOW THAT BROAD POLITICAL FRAMEWORK FOR CSCE

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PAGE 02 ROME 06827 132004Z

HAD BEEN AGREED TO. ON NATO-EC ROLES, HE OBSERVED THAT NATO

MACHINERY HAD HITHERTO BEEN SLOW AND CUMBERSOME AND THAT, IF LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES, THE NINE WOULD CONTINUE TO FORMULATE AGREED-UPON POSITIONS WITH MINIMAL REFERENCE TO NATO ORGANS. HE PERCEIVED PROBLEMS WITH THIS, HOWEVER, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE OF U.S. INPUT ON THE VARIOUS AGENDA ITEMS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF A U.S.-EC CONFRONTATION DEVELOPING ON THE EVE OF PHASE II ON POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE WEST. THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY GRIEVOUS, HE SAID, IF THE DISAGREEMENTS EVOLVED ALONG EC VERSUS U.S./USSR LINES. HE URGED (A) A MORE ACTIVE ROLE BY THE U.S. AND (B) A U.S. INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE THE NATO MACHINERY DEALING WITH CSCE, PROMISING ITALIAN SUPPORT IF WE AGREED.

2. WE WERE STUCK BY THE CONGRUITY BETWEEN THESE COMMENTS AND THE CASE MADE BY USNATO (REFTEL) ON THE NEED FOR A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN PREPARING FOR PHASE II. ASSUMING WASHINGTON AGREES WITH THEME OF REFTEL, WE WOULD URGE AN EARLY INDICATION THEREOF SO THAT WE CAN PIN DOWN ITALIAN SUPPORT BEFORE THE EC GOES TOO FAR DOWN THE ROAD IN ITS DELIBERATIONS. VOLPE

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